Perjury May Be Charged in Writer's Arrest

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By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — A warrant will be sworn out for the arrest of David Chandler if he testifies before a state Mafia investigating committee that the contents of his Life magazine article on organized crime and state government are true, Gov. John J. McKeithen declared today.

McKeithen told a press conference, which he called to give his views on the election of George Wallace as Democratic candidate for governor in Alabama, that if Chandler swears under oath to the allegations made in the article he will seek his arrest for perjury.

The governor said the election of Wallace would have little effect on the South or Louisiana. He said there was little difference between the former Alabama governor or the incumbent Albert Brewer.

M'KEITHEN SAID the press misconstrued his intentions about running for president in a third-party movement. He said he advised Wallace that he was not attempting to take over the leadership of the party the latter started.

He predicted Chandler, who resides in New Orleans, would not appear before the legislative committee investigating the allegations. The committee has issued a subpena for him to appear at a hearing June 10.

"They are not going to come," McKeithen said. "If he does come he will be surrounded by an entourage of lawyers. I don't think he will come.

M'KEITHEN SAID that after Chandler testifies he plans to take the stand to counter his testimony. In the meantime, he said, he will have the writer arrested for perjury.

"Life practically asked me to get under the table and gut this state," McKeithen said in rapping the article as a malicious lie.

The magazine said in an April edition that underworld figure Carlos Marcello wields great influence on political

Mafia Testimony

Threatened

figures in state and local government and dominated the state.

"I HOPED that I would have been called before now," McKeithen said of the Mafia committee. "I'm head of state government."

He said all agencies of the state have been ordered to cooperate with the investigating committee and produce whatever records are sought.

Referring to a 1967 article on organized crime and Louisiana, McKeithen claimed Life editors gave him misinformation about the situation.

WHEN THAT article appeared, McKeithen branded it a lie, and then said it was true after conferring with the editors in a trip to New York. He even went further to say that Life was easier than it could have been.

McKeithen said at the press conference that while in New York he learned something from other people that "shocked me even more." He declined to say specifically what it was, saying he found out someone close to him had given him false information.

That person he said is no longer with state government. He added that he did not know if it had been mentioned publicly, but that he had recited the incident privately to a number of people.

M'KEITHEN PREDICTED Life will be out with another article on Louisiana soon, one which will "smear" some members of the investigating committee.

He said the Life article appeared last April while he was conferring with industrial-

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ists who were planning a $100 million plant expansion in the state. "I haven't heard from them since," he said.

McKeithen also said he had no objections to advisory citizen members on the investigating committee asking questions but only wanted to be certain the committee's constitutionality is protected.

ON THE WALLACE election, the governor said he already has wired his congratulations.

He said his stand on getting equal treatment for the South does not necessarily mean he would give his full support to a Wallace for president bid.

"I don't think Wallace actually wants to run for president," McKeithen said.

McKeithen said he fears for the future of the country now because the silent majority has come to the point where they are saying things have gone too far to the left.